

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

30 OCT 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

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For The President Only—Top Secret

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1. Berlin developments

- a) A US C-47 and a helicopter overflew East Berlin again yesterday--no Communist reaction as yet;
- b) over the weekend the Soviets refused passage on the autobahn to two of the US "assistance vehicles" which have been making several trips daily, charging that they were actually patrol vehicles;
- c) NATO Secretary General Stikker says that representatives of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK have indicated to him uneasiness over the US position on East German access. They are said to feel that their governments and publics would not understand why there should be hostilities over refusal "to show a mere piece of paper."

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2. UK [] views
on South Vietnam

[] A British Foreign Office representative, describing the situation there as "ominous," avers that the UK is firmly committed to the defense of South Vietnam. He indicated that the British would support a US decision to beef up the US training mission, but would consider it "unwise" if we introduced American troops;

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3. West German political impasse still unbroken

Coalition negotiations, broken off last Thursday, have been resumed. Foreign Minister Brentano's offer to resign may remove one of the major stumbling blocks to agreement between the Christian Democrats and Free Democrats. Our Embassy in Bonn sees the protracted crisis as the greatest test of the democratic process thus far experienced by the Federal Republic. Adenauer's prestige has been tarnished, with many Germans holding him at fault for undue preoccupation with his personal position in the midst of the Berlin crisis. A Bundestag vote for Chancellor is now not likely before November 6 at the earliest.

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4. Shooting renewed
in Laos

Political negotiations may be set back by an outbreak last Friday during which Meo guerrillas belonging to the Laotian army lobbed mortar shells into the town of Xieng Khouang for several hours. Vientiane's cease-fire orders are apparently being obeyed, but the damage may have been done. Souvanna has protested to the ICC and the incident will probably reinforce his doubts about Vientiane's sincerity in negotiations.

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5. French tense over up-
coming Algerian demon-
strations

Algerian rebel leaders say they want the Moslem demonstrations, scheduled for Wednesday, to be peaceful, but French security officials question whether they can be kept that way. European or rebel zealots may try to provoke the demonstrators into violence. If this happens, the French fear, the Secret Army Organization would have a springboard for an attempted seizure of Oran or Algiers.

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6. Sihanouk remains at fever pitch over Thai dispute

- a) He has again blasted the US, charging lopsided military aid to Thailand and South Vietnam and encouragement of their hostility toward Cambodia;
 - b) We are still inclined to doubt that Sihanouk will accept Chinese military assistance unless he becomes convinced that Thailand or South Vietnam are on the point of launching a clear-cut aggression against him.
 - c) Nonetheless, his neutralism is likely now to tip perceptibly toward the Communist Bloc, as it did during earlier quarrels with his neighbors.
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NOTES

- A. The Party Congress in Moscow has voted to have Stalin's body removed from the Red Square mausoleum, thus virtually completing his descent from Olympus. At least some Russians, however, are asking how Khrushchev squares his attacks on Stalin with his own "personality cult."
- B. Another Soviet ICBM was fired to the Central Pacific on 28 October. Moscow has indicated that this was the last in the series, during which 8 of the 11 launchings reached the impact area. [REDACTED] 50X1
- C. The US task force on Vietnam reports a deterioration in both internal security and the stability of the Diem regime during October.
- D. Cairo is disturbed by Afghanistan's drift toward Moscow and is urging other neutrals to "caution" Afghanistan lest it abandon "the policy of non-alignment." [REDACTED] 50X1
- E. Tshombe, who last week announced that he needed a brief rest for health reasons [REDACTED] 50X6

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE